

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs
1	BRS	L2	426	menu\$9.ab. or menu\$9.ti. or icon\$13.ab. or icon\$13.ti. or dialog\$10.ab. or dialog\$10.ti.	IBM_TD B
2	BRS	L3	882	tool\$9.ab. or tool\$9.ti.	IBM_TD B
3	BRS	L4	767	interact\$10.ab. or interact\$10.ti. or screen\$9.ab. or screen\$9.ti. or cursor\$9.ab. or cursor\$9.ti.	IBM_TD B
4	BRS	L5	1659	gui\$9.ab. or gui\$9.ti. or ui\$9.ab. or ui\$9.ti. or interfac\$9.ab. or interfac\$9.ti.	IBM_TD B
5	BRS	L6	277	styl\$9.ab. or styl\$9.ti. or them\$13.ab. or them\$13.ti. or skin\$9.ab. or skin\$9.ti. or look\$8.ab. or look\$8.ti. or feel\$9.ab. or feel\$9.ti.	IBM_TD B
6	BRS	L7	1836	custom\$12.ab. or custom\$12.ti. or develop\$9.ab. or develop\$9.ti. or personal\$12.ab. or personal\$12.ti. or user\$9.ab. or user\$9.ti.	IBM_TD B
7	BRS	L8	15	(2 or 3) and (4 or 5) and (6 or 7)	IBM_TD B

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DISCLOSURE TITLE: User-Controlled Move, Copy or Delete of Menu
Choices in a
Graphical User Interface

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DISCLOSURE TEXT:

drag &
drop
menu
editing

Users of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) are sometimes faced with a confluence of menu choices associated with a given object. Certain choices may never be selected by the user, yet there is currently no way to conveniently remove a menu choice from a menu.

Also, a user might prefer to move or copy a given menu choice to a different location. The problem with having unnecessary choices on a

menu is the resulting visual clutter, which can lead to user fatigue

and frustration. Current art includes the usage of short/long menus

by application designers, allowing users to choose between complicated and simple menus. The user generally toggles between these modes via a menu choice, and the granularity is severely limited.

Also, application designers compromise by placing menu choices in locations most likely to please the majority of users. Users currently have no way of moving, copying, or deleting menu items.

- This idea takes advantage of the drag-and-drop direct manipulation capability of modern GUIs. If a user sees a choice in a

menu that they want to remove from the menu, the user can drag the

menu item with the mouse manipulation button (generally mouse button

two) to the shredder or waste-basket, deleting the item from the

menu. The user can restore the menu choice to the menu at any time
by going to the object's menu setting page and adding the remembered

item. The preferred interaction technique is direct manipulation;

however, the desired result can be obtained in other ways. For instance, the menu item could have an associated pop-up (contextual)

menu, opened by a single click of the mouse manipulation button on

the menu choice. The pop-up menu could have a choice called 'Delete', which would effect the items removal.

- Similarly, a user could drag a menu item to a different menu.

By augmenting the drag with the standard drag keys M and C (IBM Common User Access - CUA 91), the user specifies Move or Copy.

For

example, a user might want to move or copy the Paste command from the

standard Edit pulldown menu to some other menu in the application. A

move or copy could be reversed at any time by going to the settings

view of the menu's object, as described above.

- The benefits include:

o Allows the user of a GUI to easily and intuitively customize the

menus associated with objects by the natural drag-and-drop metaphor.

o Provides an undo function via menu restoration from the settings page.

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